

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 9 have been cancelled and claims 4, 6-8 and 10-17 have been amended. Thus, claims 4, 6-8 and 10-17 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In item 7 on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 4-8, 11-15 and 18-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, claims 1-3 and 9 have been canceled; allowable claim 4 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1; allowable claim 11 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2; allowable claim 12 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 3; claims 10 and 16 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 11; and claim 17 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 12.


In addition, the claim language has been reviewed and revised to improve its English grammar and U.S. form, and so as to eliminate "means" language to avoid interpretation of claim limitations under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Thus, in view of the indication of allowability set forth in item 7 on page 6 of the Office Action, as well as the above-mentioned amendments, it is submitted that the application is now clearly in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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